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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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January 28, 1958

TO : The Acting Secretary  
THROUGH: G - Mr. Murphy *SM*  
S/S  
FROM : EUR - C. Burke Elbrick *Q.S.*  
SUBJECT: Future Status of Europe

In response to the request expressed in a memorandum of January 24 from Mr. Howe, EUR has made arrangements to address itself to the questions of German reunification and European security, as suggested by the Secretary prior to his departure for Ankara.

A working group is now engaged, on a full time basis, in a study of these matters. The members of the group are: Mr. Freers (Director EE), Chairman; Mr. Reinstein (Director GER); Mr. McBride (Deputy Director RA); and Mr. Barnes of the Policy Planning Staff. We have made the necessary arrangements to have these individuals detached from their present duties to devote their full time to this project. We shall make the necessary arrangements to bring the Defense Department into the work of this group at an early date, since these matters are of vital importance to that Department. Any further arrangements for effecting inter-Departmental coordination will be made as the work of the group progresses.

The problems of German reunification and European security, together with that of disarmament, are the principal issues which would be discussed at any high level meeting with the Soviet Union. Judging from the reaction of our European allies, and pressure of world opinion, it is probable, if not inevitable, that a summit meeting will take place sometime within the next year. The work to be done by this working group will be of the utmost importance to a preparation for such a meeting and, in fact, we are prepared to contemplate the continuation of the life of the working group through such a summit meeting. It will be difficult to separate the German problem and European security from the problem of disarmament, and, therefore, the group will maintain the closest contact with Mr. Farley.

We feel

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We feel that the task of this particular working group will be to study the Geneva proposals with respect to Europe and German reunification in the light of the present political atmosphere. The group will consider the possibility of revamping the Geneva proposals in order to make them more appealing to the public. It will also explore such new avenues of approach to these problems as may recommend themselves to the group for submission to you and the Secretary.

Unfortunately, it is not possible at this time to give you an idea as to the date the working group might be expected to produce a report. We will, however, keep you currently informed of the work of the group and would expect to produce at least a preliminary report within two or three weeks.

cc: S/P - Mr. Smith

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